taluks and that its rate of equivalence was fixed at 4·4583 edangalies, calculating for the purpose a *Kotta* as being equal to 9 paras and $3\frac{5}{8}$ edangalies. He said that the above rate of equivalence was not adopted after correctly ascertaining the accurate cubical capacity of the real *Kotta* measure, nor was it based on the standard *Kotta* fixed by Government in G. O. No. 15436/R. 6634, dated the 13th September 1906, which was equal to 8 paras and $6\frac{1}{2}$ edangalies. The tax on the lands in Nanjinad due to the Sreepandaravagai and other institutions or persons had to be paid in paddy, and, in so paying the tax, the ryots would suffer great loss and hardship by the adoption of the standard measure prescribed. He, therefore, requested that the portion of the tax now being paid in kind be also converted into money at the commutation rate, that the actual capacity of the *Kotta* measure be correctly ascertained and fixed after a careful enquiry and that, till that was done, the introduction of the present *marakal* measure be postponed.

He also presented a memorial signed by several ryots of the taluks of Tovala and Agastiswaram, containing their grievances in the matter of the different measures adopted in the taluks.

Dewan's reply.—Noted for consideration.

8. The desirability of registering Poramboke and Puduval lands in the names of Pariahs for their occupation.

Mr. Kandan Kumaran (Member, Nominated) conveyed to the Government and the Dewan the thanks of his community for nominating for the first time one from the community as a member of the Assembly. He pointed out that members of his community were lying scattered in different parts of the State and that they lived like wild beasts, far from the haunts of men. They often cultivated *puduval* and other lands ; but when the time for registry came, they were not only deprived of the lands they cultivated but also of the value of the improvements thereon. He said that they used to occupy Sirkar lands and cultivate the same freely in the olden days, but that it had become impossible now. He therefore prayed that, in places where members of his community could be found, all available Sircar lands might be ordered to be registered in their names in convenient blocks, and that they might also be permitted to cultivate portions of reserved forests suitable for Kanni and Kumbhom cultivation with profit to themselves and to the Government and without detriment to the interests of forest conservancy.

Dewan's reply.—A report will be called for from the Dewan Peishkars on the Member's representations.

(2) Forest Revenue.

9. The desirability of allowing trees standing within and outside Forest Reserves to be cut down after realising the seigniorage value, and of issuing teak to the public from the minor depots at reduced tariff rates.

Mr. Ittoop Ittiachan (Member, Kunnatnad taluk) said that the present system of engaging contractors for working down timber from the forests was detrimental to the interests of both the Government and the public. As an instance in point, the tariff rate for Iruppul, one of the jungle-wood trees, was Rs. 11 per candy. The contractor had to be paid Chs. 13 per cubic foot or Rs. $7\frac{1}{4}$ per candy by way of *kolevila*. The net profit to the Government was therefore only Rs. $3\frac{3}{4}$ per candy, while the public would have to pay at least Rs. 16 per candy including the transport charges. If, on the other hand, the tree was disposed of after realising the seigniorage value, neither the Government nor the public would have to incur any needless loss. Till 1078, the Government had permitted the removal of Iruppul and other forest trees on payment of Rs. $1\frac{1}{2}$ per candy. But in 1079, the seigniorage rate was raised to Rs. 4 per candy and subsequently to As. 4 per cubic foot. The Forest Department had, however, never permitted the removal of such trees on payment of the above seigniorage rate as ordered by the Government. The Member added

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that there was no reason for the fear that the disposal of forest trees for seigniorage value would tend to increase the number of forest cases. He therefore prayed that the forest trees within and without reserved forests might be permitted to be cut down on payment of the seigniorage value.

The Member also pointed out that the tariff rates for 1st, 2nd and 3rd class teak wood were Rs. 36, Rs. 28 and Rs. 24 per candy respectively; but that, when the timber was sold to big merchants or influential companies, the rates realised fell far short of the tariff rates. The average of the sales at the depots did not exceed Rs. 20 per candy. He therefore requested that teak might be issued to the public, especially to the subjects of the State for their own private use, at the following reduced rates, *viz.*, Rs. 24 for the 1st class, Rs. 20 for the 2nd class and Rs. 16 for the 3rd class, per candy.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

10. The necessity for the reduction of the tariff values of teak and other kinds of timber.

Mr. K. Velayudhan Pillai (Member, Karthigapalli taluk) complained about the steady enhancement of the tariff values of teak, blackwood and other kinds of timber since 1088, and said that the enhancement of the tariff rates had not brought in revenue to the Government to the extent of the export duty sacrificed. The enhancement of the tariff rates accentuated the difficulties of the people in buying timber and the abolition of the export duty on timber appreciably diminished the Government revenue. He also complained that, although the tariff rates had been put sufficiently high, the people were not freely given timber even at the tariff rates. The depot officers refused to give timber at tariff rates without the permission of the Divisional Forest Officer. If people applied to the latter, he would direct the applicants to bid at the public auctions. In the auction sales, the people outside the State had greater advantage over the natives of the country, inasmuch as the former had not to pay any export duty. What the local people invariably got was the inferior kind of timber, and even after they had purchased it in auction, they had to wait for the orders of the Conservator sometimes for months. That worked great hardship to the people of the State. Often times the Forest Department did not enforce the tariff rates in the case of people outside the State and sold large lots of timber at much below the tariff rates. The Member contended that such people from outside the State should pay not only the tariff rate, but also the original export duty on timber.

Another evil arising from the enhanced tariff rates for timber was, the Member pointed out, that, in all the depots of the State, there was a large surplus of undisposed of timber. In the Veyapuram depot, in 1087, *i. e.* before the tariff rates were increased, there were 133 logs left undisposed of, in 1088, 1586 logs, in 1089, 4925 logs, and in 1090, 12,051 logs. Those logs were subsequently disposed of at a loss to the Government. There would not have been such a large undisposed of stock in the depots, if the timber had been sold to the people of the State at reduced rates. He therefore prayed that the tariff rates for teak and blackwood be reduced, that all trees be ordered to be sold to applicants by the depot officers themselves without auction sales on recovery of tariff rates, that trees, as soon as they were felled, be arranged to be marked with their dimensions to prevent their being tampered with subsequently, and that the delay in putting applicants in possession of the timber they paid for be avoided in future. He also suggested that the export duty on timber, which had been abolished, should be revived.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

11. The hardships and inconveniences caused to the people by the Forest Regulation and the measures for remedying the same.

Mr. K. C. Govindan (Member, Nominated) said that the increase in the number of forest offences and in the percentage of convictions during 1089 as compared

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